

Citizen Charter Review Committee

March 4, 2010

5:30 p.m.

Leon County Courthouse

Commission Chambers, 5th floor

I. Call to Order

II. Invocation and Pledge

III. Roll Call

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

1. February 18, 2010 Public Hearing Minutes

V. Opening of Second Public Hearing

VI. Close of Second Public Hearing

VII. Presentation of Draft Final Report

VIII. Member Discussion

IX. Adjournment

*The next meeting of the Citizen Charter Review Committee is scheduled for
Thursday, March 18, 2010, 5:30 p.m.*

**Leon County
2009-2010
Citizen Charter Review
Committee Meeting
February 18, 2010**

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING

The Leon County 2009-2010 Citizen Charter Review Committee (CRC) met on February 18, 2010 in the Commission Chambers with Committee members Marilyn Wills (Vice-Chair), David Jacobsen, Donna Harper, Larry Simmons, Tom Napier, Cathy Jones, Rick Bateman, Sue Dick, Chuck Hobbs, Linda Nichol森, Jon Ausman, Lance de-Haven Smith attending. Members absent and excused were Chris Holley (Chairman), Ralph Mason, and Lester Abberger. Also attending were County Attorney Herb Thiele, Deputy County Administrator Vincent Long, Assistant County Attorney Patrick Kinni; Facilitator Kurt Spitzer; Special Projects Coordinator Shington Lamy, and Deputy Clerk Rebecca Vause.

In Chairman Holley's absence, the public hearing was chaired by Vice-Chair Marilyn Wills.

I. Call to Order

Ms. Wills Called the meeting to Order at 5:30 p.m.

II. Invocation and Pledge

The Invocation was provided by Rick Bateman who then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

The roll was conducted by Shington Lamy; who confirmed a quorum was present.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

David Jacobsen moved, duly seconded by Lance de-Haven Smith to approve the February 11, 2010 meeting minutes. Tom Napier noted a correction to paragraph eight on page five. The motion to approve the minutes, as amended, carried 12-0 (Chris Holley, Ralph Mason and Lester Abberger absent).

V. Overview of the Public Hearing Process

Ms. Wills asked County Attorney Thiele to provide an overview of the public hearing process. Mr. Thiele explained that this was the first of three scheduled public hearings to receive public input on the proposed Charter amendments. He explained that no action should be taken by the Committee on comments received at this or subsequent public hearing; action deemed necessary by the Committee should be done at the conclusion of the third public hearing. Mr. Thiele requested that public comment be limited to three minutes per speaker.

Mr. Bateman established with Mr. Thiele that further debate on the issues among the members should be reserved until the conclusion of the third public hearing. Mr. Thiele also clarified that a wording change to the substantive issues would not require the public hearings process to begin again; this would only be required should a substantive change, such as an additional amendment be made.

VI. Presentation of Proposed Charter Amendments

Mr. Spitzer utilized a power point presentation to provide an overview of 1) county charters; 2) the process utilized by the CRC, and 3) the proposed charter amendments.

Following is a listing and brief summary of the proposed charter amendments:

1. Tourist Development Council (TDC) Structure: Codifies into charter the current practice of TDC staff reporting to the County Administrator.
2. Countywide Environmental Standards: Permits the Board of County Commissioners to adopt ordinances that are effective countywide concerning any environmental standard, regulation or policy and eliminates different standards/regulations between the county and city in environmental policy.
3. Employment Policy for County Administrator: Provides that the County Administrator is employed by an affirmative vote of at least five members of the Board. Also provides that the County Administrator is terminated by an affirmative vote of at least five members of the Board occurring at the first regularly scheduled meeting of the Board after a motion expressing intent to remove the Administrator was approved.
4. Non-Interference Policy: Prohibits individual County Commissioners from giving instructions or directives to employees under the direct or indirect control of the County Attorney or County Administrator.
5. Petition Thresholds/Prohibitions: Lowers signatures required for petitions proposing ordinances or charter amendment from 10% countywide, including at least 10% in each single-member district to 7% countywide and 5% within each single-member district. Also clarifies that existing prohibited subjects apply to charter amendments in addition to ordinances.
6. Future Citizen CRCs: Provides that the CRC is appointed 15 months prior to the general election, instead of 12 months and requires the Board to consider a wide variety of factors when appointing CRC members so as to reflect diversity in the community. Also provides that CRC recommendations approved by nine votes go to the Board for their consideration; however, those recommendations receiving 12 votes would go directly to the ballot.
7. Clerk's Audit Function: Provides that the Clerk to the Board may conduct audits of the County Commission's books, accounts and internal controls pursuant to a work plan developed and approved by the Audit Committee. Also provides that the Clerk may conduct performance audits upon approval by the County Commission.
8. Utility Advisory Board: Comprised of seven members (3 appointed by City; 3 appointed by County and 1 appointed by CONA) to study and make recommendations to the City/County regarding utility rates, planning or expansion of utility service areas and maintenance activities.
9. Campaign Finance Reform: Limits campaign contributions for candidates for county offices to \$250 per election cycle from individuals or committees.

VII. Opening of Public Hearing

Vice Chairman Wills opened the Public Hearing.

Speakers:

- Rick Malphurs, 6438 Treasure Oaks Circle, expressed concern regarding the proposed campaign finance limits and offered that should limits be imposed then term limits should also be put in place. He also questioned the need for a super majority vote of the Commission to hire or fire the County Administrator.
- Erwin Jackson, 1341 Jackson Bluff Road, spoke against the campaign contribution limitation opining that it should be termed the "Incumbent Protection Act of 2010". He stated that the limitation would make it more difficult for incumbents to be challenged by political newcomers and suggested that debates between candidates be required.

Vice Chairman Wills confirmed that there were no more speakers and the Public Hearing was closed.

VIII. Member Discussion

Mr. Thiele announced that the next public hearing is scheduled for March 4, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.

IX. Close of First Public Hearing/Adjournment

Lance De-Haven Smith moved, duly seconded by Rick Bateman to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 11-1 (Jon Ausman in opposition; Chris Holley, Ralph Mason and Lester Abberger absent).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

LEON COUNTY:

ATTEST:

Christopher Holley, Chairman

Bob Inzer, Clerk of Court
Leon County